

MINUTES

OF THE

FORTY - SECOND SESSION

OF THE

Bethlehem Baptist Association,

Held at the

EVERGREEN CHURCH,

CONECUH. COUNTY. ALABAMA.

COMMENCING SATURDAY SEPT. 25, 1858.

MOBILE

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1858.



MINUTES  
OF THE  
*FORTY SECOND SESSION*  
OF THE  
**BETHLEHEM BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.**

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EVERGREEN CHURCH, September 25th, 1858.

The Association met pursuant to adjournment. The Introductory Sermon was preached by Elder A. J. Lambert, from John XXI, a part of 15th verse—" Lovest thou me more than these," &c.

After a recess of about an hour, the Delegates assembled in the Meeting House, where the Association was called to order by Elder W. C. Morrow, the former Moderator; and after prayer by the Moderator, was declared ready for business.

Brethren A. J. Lambert, James E. Lett, George L. Lee, and J. D. Kindrick, were requested to read the letters.

The letters were read, contents noted, and the names of the Delegates enrolled. (See tabular statement.)

Re-elected Elder W. C. Morrow, Moderator, and Andrew Jay, Clerk.

Appointed Committee on Preaching, F. Straughn, Miles J. Herrington, Willis J. Milner, Elder J. D. Kindrick, and the Deacons of the Evergreen Church.

Invitation extended to Ministering brethren, when Elder E. H. Warren, from the West Florida Association, applied and took a seat with us.

Letters from newly constituted Churches were called for, when letters from eleven Churches were presented, and on motion they were received into Membership, and the hand of fellowship extended to their Delegates. (See appendix to tabular statement.)

Letters from corresponding bodies were called for.

ALABAMA ASSOCIATION.—Letter and minutes. Elders David Lee, R. Keith, J. E. Bell, were received as her Messengers.

WEST FLORIDA ASSOCIATION.—Letter, but no minutes or Messenger.

BETHEL ASSOCIATION.—No letter, minutes or Messenger.

PROVIDENCE ASSOCIATION.—No letter, minutes or Messenger.

PINE BARREN ASSOCIATION.—No letter, minutes or Messenger.

The Committee on Preaching reported arrangement as follows: Saturday night, R. Keith; Sunday forenoon, David Lee; afternoon, Z. G. Henderson; at night, J. Caine. To the colored people, forenoon, John McWilliams; afternoon, A. D. Stewart.

Invitation was extended to Associations not on our list of correspondence, when from Zion Association Elder J. C. R. Lockheart presented himself as her Messenger, with a package of minutes and letter of correspondence, to whom was the hand of fellowship extended, and her name placed on the list of corresponding associations.

#### STANDING COMMITTEES APPOINTED, AS FOLLOWS:

ON THE STATE OF RELIGION.—George L. Lee, Elders Jacob Smith and N. Parker.

DOMESTIC MISSIONS.—Elder A. J. Lambert, Elder N. Parker, F. Straughn, M. J. Herrington.

DOCUMENTS.—Elder J. D. Kindrick, R. P. Stallworth, R. R. Mosley, Elder John McWilliams, Elder Jesse Thames.

SABBATH SCHOOLS.—Elder Z. Williams, Elder A. D. Stewart, Y. M. Rabb, A. Hendrix, W. C. Nevil, W. C. Carter.

TEMPERANCE.—Elder A. D. Stewart, F. Straughn, Daniel Robbins, J. D. Salter, R. B. Higden, Z. G. Henderson.

CORRESPONDENCE.—Andrew Jay, E. G. Autrey, Charles Floyd.

QUERIES AND REQUESTS.—Elder Z. G. Henderson, Elder J. D. Kindrick, F. Straughn, Levi Walker, R. R. Mosley, to which the Moderator was added.

FINANCE.—R. P. Stallworth, James E. Lett, Y. M. Rabb.

Adjourned until Monday morning 9 o'clock. Prayer by Elder J. D. Kindrick.

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On Sabbath, Brethren Lee, Henderson, McWilliams, Stewart, and Caine, preached in the order of their appointments. At the close of the morning service, a public collection was taken up for Domestic Mission, amounting to  $(49\frac{55}{100})$  forty-nine dollars and fifty-five cents.

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#### MONDAY MORNING, Sept. 27.

The Association met, pursuant to adjournment. Prayer by Elder Z. Williams.

The minutes were read, statistics corrected and approved.

Appointments for preaching at the stand reported. Forenoon, I. E. Bell; afternoon, R. Keith.

Report of the Executive Board called for. Received and adopted. (App. A.)

Re-elected, the same Executive Board, to wit: Elder W. C. Morrow, F. Straughn, T. R. Pope, R. R. Mosley, George L. Lee, Andrew Jay, I. H. Daily, O. F. Nunnallee, Y. M. Rabb.

Reports from Standing Committees called for.

ON THE STATE OF RELIGION.—Report received and adopted. (App. B.)

On motion, the regular order of business was suspended to invite Ministering brethren to seats, who were not present on Saturday. Bro. John Wilmer came forward and accepted the invitation.

ON SABBATH SCHOOLS.—Report received and adopted. (App. C.)

ON TEMPERANCE.—Report received and adopted. (App. D.)

Regular business suspended, it being the report on Domestic Missions to allow Bro. F. Straughn to offer the following resolution:

*Resolved*, That a committee of three be appointed to present to this Association a suitable notice of the death of our esteemed brother, Elder J. M. Boyles.

On motion, the resolution was unanimously adopted.

F. Straughn, George L. Lee, A. J. Lambert, were appointed. under the above resolution, to which, on motion, the Moderator was added.

Took recess for one hour.

Business resumed, which was the consideration of the report on Domestic Missions. A discussion sprung up, in which brother Keith, Z. G. Henderson, Jones, and others, participated.

Report adopted. (App. E.)

The brethren volunteered to go to our corresponding bodies, as follows:

PINE BARREN ASSOCIATION.—R. R. Mosley, J. E. Lett, Elder A. D. Stewart, Elder J. D. Kindrick, D. Hestle, Daniel Robbins, F. Straughn, Thompson Kendall, J. H. Daily, Y. M. Babb, R. P. Stallworth.

PROVIDENCE ASSOCIATION.—Elder A. W. Jones, Elder W. C. Morrow, Elder J. D. Kindrick, Elder J. McWilliams, F. Straughn,

BETHEL ASSOCIATION.—Elder J. D. Kindrick.

ALABAMA ASSOCIATION.—George L. Lee, Elder N. Parker, Edward Nix, J. R. Brown.

WEST FLORIDA ASSOCIATION.—

ZION ASSOCIATION.—Elder Z. Williams, A. J. Robinson,



Elder A. D. Stewart, Elder J. F. Cork, Elder Jesse Thames, Elder Noah Parker.

ALABAMA BAPTIST STATE CONVENTION.—Elder Z. G. Henderson, A. Hendrix.

A collection was taken up for the State Convention, to wit : For . . . . .—Missions, \$12  $\frac{7}{10}$  ; Beneficiaries of Howard College, \$12  $\frac{7}{10}$  ; Indian Mission, \$17 ; Sunday School, 50 cents.

The following resolutions were introduced by Elder Z. G. Henderson :

*Resolved*, That this body rejoice in the great outpouring of Gods Spirit in our own country, as well as in foreign lands.

*Resolved*, That, although our own destitution is very great, yet the perishing condition of eight hundred millions of the human family, now in the darkness of heathenism, demand our prayers and benefactions.

*Resolved*, That the Churches of this body be hereby requested to prayerfully consider their duty, and, so far as they can, send up aid to our next Session, for the support of our Missionaries in foreign lands.

*Resolved*, That a committee of three be appointed, at this time, to present an elaborate report, at the next Session of this body, on the subject of Missions, both Foreign and Domestic.

On motion they were adopted.

Elder Z. G. Henderson, Elder A. D. Stewart, G. L. Lee, were appointed, under the above resolutions.

Leave of absence was granted Elder Thomas Bennett and M. Goldsmith.

Report on Queries and Requests called for. Received and adopted. (App. F.)

Report of our Missionaries called for.

#### N. PARKER'S REPORT.

As your Missionary from the 1st March last, I beg leave to make the following report: Employed in traveling, 110 days; miles traveled, 1450; Baptised, 5; aided in the constitution of four Churches, and in dissolving the Shoal Creek Church.

Respectfully submitted,

NOAH PARKER, *Missionary*.

#### THOMAS NELSON'S REPORT.

The result of my labors, as your Missionary from the 1st March last, is as follows: Traveled 1350 miles; Preached 72 sermons; baptised 16; aided in the constitution of one Church, also, in ordaining two Deacons Received sixty-five dollars for Domestic Missions.

Respectfully submitted,

THOMAS NELSON, *Missionary*.

The following resolution was introduced by Elder Ransom Gentry :

*Resolved*, That a regular organized Baptist Church has a right to restore the credentials of a Minister, excluded, upon his restoration by and through a Presbytery whom they may call together, whether that Presbytery be composed of one or more ordained Ministers.

After considerable discussion, in which Jones, Henderson, McWilliams, Goldsmith, Milner, Caine, Kindrick, the Modera-

tor, and others, took part, the following amendment was offered by A. Jay : Strike out all after the words "Resolved, that," and insert, "In the opinion of this Association, *baptism* administered by a Minister who had been excluded, though he may have been restored to fellowship in the Church, unless his *credentials* have been restored to him by a Presbytery of two or more ordained Ministers, is unconstitutional and void, and cannot be recognized by this Association ; neither do we recognize such a brother as an ordained Minister.

After a lengthy and somewhat excited discussion, the amendment was lost, and the original resolution adopted.

Elder Z. G. Henderson introduced the following resolution, which was adopted :

*Resolved*, That any member or members of this Association, who can attend the Alabama Baptist State Convention, at Gainesville, be hereby authorized to represent us in the Convention.

Elder J. D. Kindrick introduced the following resolution, which was adopted :

*Resolved*, That a collection be taken up, to raise one third part of the expenses of Elder K. Hawthorn, a Delegate to the Convention at Nashville, which had for its object the organizing of a Southern Baptist Sunday School Union.

In accordance with a pledge made by the last Association, the necessary amount was raised, under the above resolution.

Adjourned until to-morrow morning, 9 o'clock. Prayer by Elder Z. Williams.

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#### TUESDAY MORNING, Sept. 28.

The Association met, pursuant to adjournment. Prayer by Elder A. W. Jones.

A motion was made to re-consider the vote by which the resolution introduced by ———— was passed on yesterday. Lost.

REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE.—Received and adopted. (App.)

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON DOCUMENTS.—Had nothing to report upon.

The Committee on Correspondence reported letters to the different corresponding bodies, accompanied with a package of minutes.

The following amendment to the latter clause of the 13th article of the Constitution, was offered by Elder J. D. Kindrick : "If such a Minister return and give satisfaction, the Church has the power to restore him to fellowship ; and, also, to restore to him his credentials, if, in her opinion, they should be restored, and report the same to the next association, to be entered on the minutes."

After considerable discussion and ineffectual attempts to defeat the changing of the Constitution, the amendment was adopted.

On motion, it was resolved, that the Constitution, as amended, Articles of Faith and Rules of Decorum, be appended to the minutes of this session of the Association.

**SELECT COMMITTEE.**—Relative to the death of our deceased brother, Elder J. M. Boyles, was received and adopted:

Your Select Committee on the obituary notice of our esteemed brother, Elder James M. Boyles, who has been removed from earthly associations to join the "General Assembly, and Church of the First-born," in Heaven, since the last meeting of this body, beg leave to submit the following as the result of their labors:

Elder James M. Boyles, was born March 6th, 1819, in Monroe Co., Ala., where he was reared to manhood. Though blessed by the restraint of parental piety, he went far in daring sin and rebellion against God, in which course he continued until the time of his sudden conversion, which took place in the year 1846. His conversion was a remarkable one. From being the foremost in worldliness and transgression of the law of God, he becomes, all of a sudden, the most zealous, humble and devoted of Christians. As a characteristic incident, it may not be amiss to mention here, that, while a sinner, he was noted as a "horse jockey," and had wronged many an inferior judge of this species of property, in their exchanges and other transactions. In every case of the kind, immediately after his conversion, he restored all others had lost in their transactions with him. He evinced that he believed a part of repentance is restitution.

Very soon he felt the weight of immortal souls so resting upon him, that he was constrained to say, "Wo is me if I preach not the Gospel." But he also felt deeply his want of qualifications for the responsible office of the Gospel ministry. But, at length, urged by a sense of duty, relying on the strength of God, he commenced a preparation for the ministry; though thus far advanced in life, and surrounded by a family, passed some years in laborious and successful studies in Howard College, and on the 2d Lord's day in December, 1850, was ordained to the Gospel ministry, by Little River Church, from which time his labors in the ministry were abundant and successful.

Brother Boyles lived several years, before his death, near Montgomery Hill, Baldwin Co., Ala., had the pastoral care of the Montgomery Hill and Little River Churches, and devoted a great deal of his time in missionary labors among the destitute in his section. Here, as a citizen, as a friend, as a neighbor, as a Christian, and as a minister of the Gospel, he was universally beloved. But, as husband, father, master, untold affections clung around this good man. On his death-bed, he said that he "felt he had done all, in his ministerial life, he could in the cause of Christ, and had but one tie to cut loose from, and that was his family." He said "there was not a shadow between him and his Saviour."

Brother Boyles spent much of his time in prayer and religious meditation, and enjoyed much of the life and power of religion. Religion! the religion of Jesus, was his joy and his crown in life, and his comfort and consolation in death. He fell at his post; and we have every reason to hope and believe that he has gone to a glorious reward. He has left behind a loving, bereaved widow, and six affectionate, fatherless children. May the kind Providence of our Heavenly Father ever attend them.

In behalf of the Committee.

W. C. MORROW.

The following was ordered to be spread upon the minutes:



By an act of the Sepulga Church, our brother, Elder J. U. Ritchie, has been excluded from that Church and his credentials demanded.

On motion, the Association went into the election of a Missionary by ballot, which resulted in the election of Elder A. D. Stewart.

Missionary's salary was then fixed at \$400 for three fourths of the year.

On motion, resolved, that this Association be divided into three, instead of two, Districts, as it now stands.

F. Straughn, George L. Lee, Elder N. Parker, were appointed to lay off the Districts, under above resolution.

The following is their report, which was received and adopted :

#### FIRST DISTRICT.

Blakely,	Stockton,	Montgomery Hill,
Little River,	Claiborne,	Salem,
Zion,	Munroeville,	Philadelphia,
	Bethany.	

#### SECOND DISTRICT.

Bellville,	Arkadelphia,	Pilgrim's Rest.
Hopewell—Conecuh,	Catawba Springs,	Pensacola,
Murder Creek,	Beulah,	Evergreen,
	Shiloh,	Olive Branch.

#### THIRD DISTRICT.

New Hope,	Liberty,	New Prospect—Butler,
Brushy Creek,	Georgiana,	Bethel,
Oakey Streak,	Fair Mount,	Sepulga,
Hopewell—Covington,	Conecuh River,	Elim,
Macedonia,	Yellow River,	Red Rock,
Milton,	Antioch,	New Providence,
Friendship,	Brooklyn,	New Prospect, Covingt'n.

Elder J. D. Kindrick appointed to preach the Introductory, at the next meeting of the Association, and Elder J. F. Cook, alternate.

On motion, pledges were taken from Churches and individuals, for Domestic Missions, as follows :

#### CHURCHES.

Montgomery Hill.....	\$30 00	Little River.....	\$10 00
Claiborne .....	20 00	Brooklyn.....	10 00
Philadelphia.....	7 50	Bethany.....	25 00
Evergreen.....	15 00	Olive Branch.....	5 00
Beulah.....	30 00	New Providence.....	5 00
Catawba Springs.....			\$2 00

#### INDIVIDUALS.

Thomas Thompson.....	\$5 00	Elder John McWilliams.....	\$ 5 00
Henry Gully.....	5 00	Daniel Robbins.....	2 50
W. F. Thomas .....	1 00	F. Straughn .....	10 00
M. J. Herrington.....	5 00	W. S. Anderson.....	2 50
David Smith.....			\$2 00

On motion, the Delegates of the first District withdrew to

select the place for the meeting of the next Association. They agreed upon Bethany, Munroe Co., Ala.

The report of the Finance Committee received and adopted. (App.)

Treasurer's Report received and adopted. (App.)

Elected brother R. P. Stallworth, Treasurer for the ensuing year.

The Clerk acknowledges receipt from Finance Committee of \$81<sup>95</sup>/<sub>100</sub> minutes fund.

The Clerk requested to superintend the printing of the minutes, and expend \$50, and retain the balance of the minutes fund for his services.

No other business being before the body, on motion, the Moderator declared the Association adjourned to meet, with the Bethany Church, Munroe Co., Ala., on Saturday before the fourth Lord's day in September, A. D., 1858.

W. C. MORROW, MODERATOR.

ANDREW JAY, *Clerk.*

## APPENDIX:

(A.)

DEAR BRETHREN:—Your Executive Board is happy to be able to state, that, from the best information had, the Missionary field within your territory is in a healthy, if not to say prosperous condition, and is in a nearer proximity to self-sustaining ability than ever before. Hence, the work should not be relaxed for a moment, but that you should be stimulated to higher aims from the success already obtained. For particulars, you are referred to the Missionaries respectively,

W. C. MORROW, PRESIDENT EX. BOARD.

(B.)

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE STATE OF RELIGION AND DIGEST OF LETTERS.

The Committee on the State of Religion and Digest of Letters, ask leave to report, that, from the short time allowed, they can present but a very partial view of the subject under their consideration.

From the reading of the associational letters, we find some of the Churches within our bounds enjoy but little of the sweets of religion; and, we fear, are doing but little for the blessed cause of our Lord and Master, Jesus Christ. We are happy to be able to state that, from the letters, we learn that many of the Churches have been greatly blessed; many of them have enjoyed gracious seasons of refreshing; have been built up in the knowledge and faith of Christ, and many precious souls have been converted to God. No less than 332 have been added to the different Churches within the bounds of this Association, during the Associational year, which shows a *large increase* over that of any other year. Yet, we have to lament the languishing state of Zion in some parts of our Association. We are happy, however, to state that there is a general increase of light, and a growing sense of Christian obligation among the Churches, on the general subject of Christian benevolence.

Eleven newly constituted Churches have applied for membership, and have been received at this session of the Association, which clearly shows that the cause of Christ is advancing.

As a whole, we would say that the spirit of Christian love is clearly seen and felt in its members, for the advancement of the cause of our blessed Redeemer.

Respectfully submitted,

GEO. L. LEE, CHAIRMAN.

### (C.)

#### REPORT ON SABBATH SCHOOLS.

Your Committee on Sabbath Schools beg leave to report, that we have only limited information, from the reading of the different Church letters, on Sabbath Schools. But, that it is a duty parents owe to their children, to train them up for God and his service, all are ready to admit. Childhood is the most favorable time, in the history of their lives, to teach and mould the mind for usefulness; and that their prosperity in future life very much depends on their religious education.

From the innate laws of mind, and the physical laws that govern mind, we are compelled to have a faith of some sort or other, and during a state of non-age, appetite and passions in children are stronger than reason, which leaves them helpless and exposed.

Sympathy and parental tenderness call loud and long on fathers and mothers, in addition to the will of Almighty God, that said deficiency in children should be supplied by wholesome and religious instruction; and if the vacancy in the mind is not filled and the evil thwarted, artificial faith, appetite, passion, and the devil, will gain the ascendancy over the tender reason of our children and their conscience.

We are taught in the Bible, that faith comes by hearing. If you would have your children believe on Jesus Christ, teach them Jesus Christ in early life. Learn them faith in God, and it will place them on advantage-ground against the wiles of the wicked one.

The minds of children, in early life, begin to unfold themselves, and, at the same time, nature's God directs them to father and mother for instruction in said objects. Though it is to be feared that, in some instances, the parents themselves are radically deficient in point of religious knowledge. Sabbath schools afford an easy and suitable opportunity for instruction, both for children and for parents.

Brethren, when you patronize Sunday schools, remember that, to the same extent, you advance the cause of God, in knowledge and Christianity, in the minds of the rising generation.

The necessity of the case, in the judgment of your committee, demands immediate and persevering action by the Churches, in behalf of the children in the vicinity of said Churches. And as guardians of the morals and religious instruction of the youth of the age, God imperiously requires it at your hands, and we cannot too highly recommend to each Church the propriety to at once establish and keep up a well organized system of Sunday schools.

All of which is respectfully submitted,

Z. WILLIAMS, CHAIRMAN.

### (D.)

#### REPORT ON TEMPERANCE.

Your Committee respectfully submit, that, in their opinion, the Church of Christ do not take that stand on the subject of temperance which the Bible and the cause of truth demands. We do not think any organization



which in any respect diminishes outward vice and immorality, should be discouraged. They ameliorate the social as well as the moral condition of society; but there is a manifest impropriety in members of Christ's body operating through such organizations alone. Their efforts must ever fail of success since they lack the spirit of true philanthropy and morality, which is only to be found in a change of heart. If temperance—total abstinence—is ever to be attained, it must be secured through the example and efforts of the Church. So long as men professing godliness forget that "evil communications corrupt good manners," and frequent places where spirits are vended, and, as is the case with some, partake of the same, how can the influence of the Church be salutary? "Touch not, taste not, handle not," must be the motto of every Christian. They must rebuke in the spirit of love, counsel in the spirit of meekness. The discipline of the Church should overtake all who, by any act or word, perpetrate this great sin. If the Church is imbued with the spirit of Christianity, cultivates piety, and by strict attention to those explicit rules for its government, which we find in the New Testament, keeps itself pure and unsullied, neither intemperance, nor any other such gigantic national sin, can successfully exist. A holy life and Christian example exerts a force sufficient to demolish sin, by regulating, as it ever will, that great lever—popular opinion.

A. D. STEWART, CHAIRMAN.

### (E.)

#### REPORT ON DOMESTIC MISSIONS.

Your Committee beg leave to report, that in contemplating the past Missionary efforts (with the result) of this Association, they are at no loss to say that no reason exists for abating—but many for increasing—those efforts, for the advancement of the Messiah's kingdom.

Your Committee has ever believed that the area of country heretofore occupied, or designated, as far as possible, to be occupied by your Missionary, to have been too extensive for the dispensation of the labors of one Missionary. To effect the greatest good, the Association, at its last session, thought it best to send out two Missionaries. The result of their labor is before you. To one of them was assigned, and has been occupied, the territory known as the Perdido, or that portion which lies more immediately on the coast, and belonging to the Providence Association. To the other, the old Missionary field, embracing the southern part of Conecuh county and a portion of West Florida.

Within a few years, we notice that quite a number of ministers have settled within the bounds of the territory of this Association, aided by whose labors, and leaving out that portion of territory lying in the bounds of the Providence Association, one Missionary, we believe, can supply all the destitution in our bounds; and we recommend his appointment with instructions to occupy the Escambia and Black Water territory, including the Pine Barron Church.

Respectfully submitted,

A. J. LAMBERT, CHAIRMAN.

### (F.)

#### REPORT ON QUERIES AND REQUESTS.

Your Committee on Queries and Requests beg leave to report, that they find nothing which they consider matter for their action, except a number of queries from the Olaborne Church. And while they deem these questions of vital importance and deeply sympathize with the brethren interested, yet they find, by reference to the Constitution, Article 10th, that they are barred.



They would, however, recommend to the brethren interested, the propriety of settling, in a prayerful manner, all these questions by the light and spirit of the New Testament. Respectfully submitted,  
Z. G. Henderson, CHAIRMAN.

(G.)

## REPORT ON FINANCE.

Your Committee beg leave to report the following amounts, for the objects designated:

Churches.	Domestic Mission.	Minutes.	Churches.	Domestic Mission.	Minutes.
Montgomery Hill...	\$ 30 00	\$ 5 00	Pensacola.....	18 25	2 50
Little River.....	15 00	1 50	N'w Prosp'ct, Butler		2 50
Claiborne.....	21 00	3 60	Catawba Springs...		70
Monroeville.....	10 00	3 50	Fair Mount.....	2 50	2 00
Salem.....		2 50	Antioch.....		50
Zion.....	2 50	2 50	Brushy Creek.....		1 00
Philadelphia.....	11 50	2 40	New Providence...	50	1 50
Bethany.....	25 00	4 00	Friendship.....	1 50	1 50
Evergreen.....	14 50	4 00	Shiloh.....		1 00
Olive Branch.....	5 00	2 85	Hopewell, Conecuh.		1 55
Bellville.....	16 00	5 00	N. Prospect, Cov'ton		25
Arkadelphia.....		2 50	Red Rock.....		1 00
Bethel.....		1 25	Georgiana.....		1 00
New Hope.....	6 50	2 00	Oaky Streak.....		1 00
Liberty.....		3 50	Hopewell, Covingt'n		2 00
Sepulga.....		3 00	Congregation on Sab.	49 65	
Beulah.....	30 00	4 00			
Eli.m.....	1 00	1 00		281 40	81 95
Brooklyn.....	10 00	2 00	From Thos. Nelson's		
Murder Creek.....		1 50	Missionary.....	65 00	
Pilgrim's Rest.....		1 35			
Yellow River.....	11 00	3 00		\$346 40	

*On account of sister Sessions.*—From Beulah Church, \$10 00; Montgomery Hill Church, \$9 00. Total, \$19 00.

*For Foreign Missions.*—Pensacola Church, \$2 65.

*For Domestic Board, at Marion.*—From Pensacola Church, \$23 50; colored people, at Pensacola, \$6 25; Bethlehem Association, \$12 75. Total, \$42 50.

*For Howard Beneficiaries.*—From Pensacola Church, \$15 50; from Association, \$12 75. Total, \$28 25.

*For Indian Mission.*—From Association, \$17 00.

*For African Mission.*—From the colored people of Pensacola Church, \$6 25.

*For Bible Board.*—From Pensacola Church, \$3 00.

*For Sunday School.*—From Association, 50cts.

Sent \$100 15 to State Convention; \$19 00 to sister Sessions; paid the Treasurer \$355 40, and the Clerk \$81 95. Respectfully submitted,  
R. P. STALLWORTH, CHAIRMAN.

(H.)

## TREASURER'S REPORT.

*Dr. R. R. Mosley, Treasurer, in account with the Bethlehem Association.*

DR.	CR.
1858.	By cash paid Thos. Nelson,—
To cash on hand.....\$124 80	Missionary.....\$250 00
“ of Finance Committee..... 355 40	“ p'd N. Parker, Mis.. 250 00
Cash of J. W. Milner.. 20 00	
	\$500 00
	“ “ R. P. Stallworth—
\$500 20	Treasurer elect.... 20
	\$500 20
Respectfully Submitted,	R. R. MOSELY, TREASURER.

## CONSTITUTION OF THE BETHLEHEM BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

ARTICLE 1. The Association shall be composed of members chosen by the different Churches in our union, who, in producing their credentials, shall be entitled to seats.

ART. 2. The members thus chosen and convened, shall be known by the name of “The Bethlehem Baptist Association,” who shall usurp no authority over the Churches in our union, or infringe on any of their internal rights; but shall be merely an advisory counsel, in all matters relative to their internal concerns; nevertheless, it becomes necessary in some cases, to have a uniform rule of procedure, namely: If one Church commit an offence against another, it shall be the duty of the *offended* to labor with the *offender* for satisfaction; if she fail of success, she shall call the aid of two or more sister Churches in our union, to assist in laboring for satisfaction, and if final satisfaction, in the opinion of the helps thus called, be not obtained, the aggrieved may bring her case before the Association for counsel. If a serious difference should arise in an individual Church, which upon labor cannot be reconciled, she shall call the aid of two or more sister Churches to assist in the work; and if a happy reconciliation, in the opinion of the helps thus called, be not effected, the case may be brought before the Association, and acted upon as above prescribed, but the Association will take cognizance of no case of the above kind, unless a due course of procedure shall have been pursued, according to the economy of Church discipline, found in the 18th chapter of the Gospel of St. Matthew, and other parts of Scripture, which define the nature of offences, and manner of bringing offenders to trial.

ART. 3. The Churches in our union shall transmit to every annual session of the Associations, a letter, specifying the names of their messengers, their number in fellowship, baptised, received by letters, dismissed, excommunicated, restored, deceased since last session, which shall be read and minuted accordingly.

ART. 4. Every Church in our union shall be entitled to representation in the following manner, viz: a Church containing fifty members, or less, shall send two messengers; and for every additional fifty, an additional messenger. Any Church failing to represent herself as above prescribed, shall state the reasons at the next session.

ART. 5. New Churches may be admitted into union, by messengers bearing petitionary letters. If, upon due examination, they be found orderly and orthodox, the Moderator shall manifest their admission, by giving the messengers the right hand of fellowship.

ART. 6. The Association, when convened, shall be governed by a regular

and proper decorum, which she is authorized to form and amend according to her own views.

ART. 7. At every session of the Association, a Moderator shall be appointed by, and of the number present, whose duty it shall be to see that the rules of decorum are strictly observed, and to take the voice of the Association on all subjects legally introduced. A Clerk shall also be appointed, whose duty it shall be to take proper and correct minutes of the proceedings.

ART. 8. The Association shall have power to exclude from her union, any Church that may violate the constitution, or depart from the orthodox principles of the Gospel.

ART. 9. The Association shall furnish the Churches with the minutes of every session.

ART. 10. Every query sent by a Church, must be inclosed in her letter, certifying that she has endeavored to reconcile it, but failed: in such case, the Association shall take it under consideration, and the voice of the Association shall be considered an advisory answer, which shall be entered on the minutes, unless withdrawn by her messengers, or voted out of the Association.

ART. 11. Any Church in our union, having a member who is judged to possess promising talents for the ministry, shall call from two or more Churches the aid of their ministers, and select members of the laity, who, in conjunction with the Church, shall examine the candidate, and if deemed qualified, may license him to preach the Gospel among the Churches at discretion, which shall be reported to the Association, and entered on the minutes.

ART. 12. Any Church in our union having a preacher whom she deems worthy of ordination, shall call a presbytery of ministers from sister Churches, to officiate in the work; and all presbyters, in the ordaining of ministers or deacons, or in the constituting of Churches, shall be governed by the abstract of faith adopted by this Association.

ART. 13. Any Church in our union having a minister who may have fallen into disorder, if, after all due labor with him, he should continue refractory, and the Church consider him a fit subject for excommunication, shall have power to exclude him from fellowship, and demand his credentials. If such a minister return and give satisfaction, the Church has the power to restore him to fellowship; and also to restore to him his credentials, if in her opinion they should be restored, and report the same to the next Association, to be entered on the minutes.

ART. 14. The Association shall have a fund supplied by the voluntary contributions of the Churches, and all monies thus contributed shall be transmitted from the Churches by their messengers, and paid over to the committee on finance. This committee shall be appointed annually, whose duty it shall be to receive in charge the Association fund, and dispose of the same agreeably to order, and make, at every session, a fair and circumstantial report of their proceedings.

ART. 15. The Association shall not adjourn any session, until she shall have finished the business on hand, except in extraordinary cases.

ART. 16. The minutes of the Association shall be read and corrected, if necessary, and signed by the Moderator and Clerk, before the session rises.

ART. 17. The Association shall, in all cases, be governed by a majority of the members present.

ART. 18. Amendments to this constitution may be made at any session of the Association, when a majority of the members shall deem it necessary.

#### ARTICLES OF FAITH.

ARTICLE 1. We believe in only one true and living God: the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

ART. 2. We believe the Old and New Testament to be the revealed mind and will of God, and the only rule of faith and practice.



ART. 3. We believe in the doctrine of Election, that God chose his people in Christ before the world began.

ART. 4. We believe in the doctrine of original sin.

ART. 5. We believe in man's incapacity, by his own free will and ability, to recover himself from the fallen state in which he is by nature.

ART. 6. We believe that sinners are justified in the sight of God, by the imputed righteousness of Jesus Christ.

ART. 7. We believe that God's elect shall be called, justified and glorified.

ART. 8. We believe that baptism and the Lord's supper, are Gospel ordinances: that immersion is the only mode of baptism; that believers are the only subjects.

ART. 9. We believe that regularly baptised members, in good standing, have a right to the Lord's table.

ART. 10. We believe in the resurrection of the dead and a general judgment; and that the joys of the righteous, and punishment of the wicked shall be everlasting.

### RULES OF ORDER.

ARTICLE 1. The Association shall be opened and closed by prayer.

ART. 2. A Moderator and Clerk shall be chosen by the suffrage of the members present.

ART. 3. The Moderator shall be considered a judge of order, and shall have a discretionary right to call to order at any time.

ART. 4. A member not satisfied with his decision, may appeal to the Association on the same day, but at no other time.

ART. 5. But one member shall speak at a time, who shall rise to his feet, and, on obtaining permission, proceed.

ART. 6. The Moderator, when addressed by a member for permission to speak, shall signify the same by naming the person, or otherwise.

ART. 7. No member shall be interrupted while speaking, unless he departs from the subject, or use words of personal reflection. Every motion made and seconded shall come under the consideration of the Association, unless withdrawn by him that made it.

ART. 8. Every case taken up by the Association shall be decided on or withdrawn, before another shall be offered.

ART. 9. When a question is taken up, after allowing time for the debates, the Moderator shall take the voice of the Association on the subject: and the members, on the affirmative of the question, shall signify the same by rising from their seats; and those on the negative shall retain theirs.

ART. 10. The Moderator shall pronounce the decision before the standers resume their seats.

ART. 11. Any member wishing to retire, shall obtain permission of the Moderator.

ART. 12. No member shall speak more than twice to the same proposition without permission of the Association, nor more than once, till every member wishing to speak shall have spoken; nor shall any proposition be made to close the subject, until the debates have been carried through.

ART. 13. The appellation of brother shall be used in the Association by members, in their addresses, one to another.

ART. 14. The names of the members shall be called as often as the Association may direct.

ART. 15. No member shall be tolerated in any practice which tends to interrupt public speaking.

ART. 16. The Moderator shall be entitled to the same privilege of speaking as any other member, provided he appoint another to his seat during the time; but shall not vote on any question, unless the Association be equally divided.

ART. 17. Any person violating these rules shall be reprov'd by the Moderator at discretion, but only on the day the breach shall have been made.



# TABULAR STATEMENT.

CHURCHES.	NAMES OF DELEGATES.	SUPPLIES.	RESIDENT MINISTERS.	CLERKS.	Baptized,.....	Rec'd by Letter..	Dismissed.....	Excluded.....	Restored.....	Dead.....	Whites.....	Colored.....	Total.....	Sabbath Meetings.	POST OFFICES
FIRST DISTRICT.															
Blakely,.....	T. Atkinson,* H. Hand, T. Stark,.....	A. J. Lambert,.....	.....	.....	4	0	2	1	0	1	101	27	128	1	Tusaw.
Stockton,.....	Elder A. J. Lambert, Andrew Lambert,.....	A. J. Lambert,.....	A. J. Lambert,.....	Joseph Booth,.....	5	0	17	1	0	1	45	35	80	3	Mount Pleasant.
Montgomery Hill,.....	W. E. Carter, R. Lamber, Stephen Hilburn,.....	A. J. Lambert,.....	.....	R. J. Draughn,.....	40	2	1	0	2	1	41	99	140	4	Clabornne.
Little River,.....	Dixon Hestle, John Dally, Nathan Bell,.....	L. W. Lindsey,.....	.....	J. T. Henderson,.....	30	8	3	1	1	0	86	40	126	2	Monroeville.
Clabornne,.....	Thomas Thompson, S. Hixon,.....	J. McWilliams,.....	.....	.....	0	0	2	3	1	3	43	7	50	3	Clabornne.
Monroeville,.....	Eld. J. McWilliams,† A. Dees,* T. R. Pope,*.....	J. McWilliams,.....	J. McWilliams,.....	W. D. McW'ns,.....	28	3	0	0	2	3	86	14	100	1	Monroeville.
Salem,.....	J. H. Dally, J. R. Thames,.....	J. McWilliams,.....	.....	J. R. Thames,.....	1	3	3	1	0	0	60	26	86	4	Burnt Corn.
Zion,.....	R. R. Mosley, J. E. Lett, G. L. Lee, W. C. Nevils,.....	W. C. Morrow,.....	.....	James E. Lett,.....	22	7	3	0	0	3	90	70	160	2	Burnt Corn.
Philadelphia,.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Bethany,.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
SECOND DISTRICT.															
Evergreen,.....	R. P. Stallworth, Y. M. Rabb,.....	J. D. Kindrick,.....	.....	Y. M. Rabb,.....	6	1	1	0	0	0	47	27	74	3	Evergreen.
Olive Branch,.....	J. D. Salter, A. G. Gary, Samuel Cooper,.....	J. J. Cooper,.....	.....	J. A. Williamson,.....	1	0	0	2	0	0	91	17	108	2	Evergreen.
Belville,.....	F. Straughn, D. Robbins, H. Gully, R. B. Higden,.....	W. C. Morrow,.....	.....	Dan'l Robbins,.....	4	1	1	0	4	1	92	98	190	4	Bellville.
Arkadelphia,.....	John C. Lasiter, James Norid,.....	J. D. Kindrick,.....	.....	James Norid,.....	1	0	4	1	0	2	38	10	48	1	Rural Hill.
Bethel,.....	J. H. Matthews, Wm. F. Thomas,.....	R. Gentry,.....	.....	R. F. Sarter,.....	4	6	6	0	0	1	39	6	45	3	South Butler.
N'w Pros't Butler,.....	Elder Thomas Bennett, M. Goldsmith,.....	.....	.....	Thos. Bennett,.....	0	10	36	0	0	33	3	25	3	3	Starlington.
New Hope,.....	Levi Walker, Mac. Wimberly,.....	J. E. Bell,.....	.....	G. W. F. Wynn,.....	0	9	5	3	0	0	33	6	39	3	Sepulga.
Liberty,.....	Elder J. D. Kindrick, C. J. Estheridge,*.....	J. J. Cooper,.....	.....	R. G. Cook,.....	3	3	4	3	0	1	52	8	60	2	Sepulga.
Sepulga,.....	William Barlow, James Jones,.....	.....	.....	C. J. Estheridge,.....	30	6	4	1	5	0	72	1	73	3	Brooklyn.
Beulah,.....	Elder W. C. Morrow, E. G. Autrey, T. Kendall,.....	L. H. Oswalt,.....	.....	William Barlow,.....	13	2	9	1	3	2	56	237	293	1	Sparta.
Brooklyn,.....	M. McCormack, J. M. Travis,† And'w Jay,.....	W. C. Morrow,.....	.....	Andrew Jay,.....	44	5	0	2	0	2	65	52	117	3	Brooklyn.
Elm,.....	Eld. Z. Williams, C. Floyd, A. J. Robinson,.....	W. C. Morrow,.....	.....	G. J. Matthews,.....	2	0	1	0	1	0	24	8	32	2	Lewis' Station.
Murder Creek,.....	M. J. Herrington, S. M. C. H. Parker,.....	Missionary,.....	.....	M. J. Herrington,.....	0	1	9	0	0	1	17	2	19	2	Sparta.
Catawba Springs,.....	Elder Jacob Smith, David Smith,.....	Jacob Smith,.....	.....	Benj. Jaurmigan,.....	0	0	0	4	0	1	60	1	61	2	Fort Crawford.
Pilgrim's Rest,.....	Jesse Jaurmigan,* J. J. Jackson,.....	Jacob Smith,.....	.....	J. J. Jackson,.....	0	0	0	0	0	4	27	16	43	1	Fort Crawford.
Pensacola,.....	Benjamin L. Loveless, William Anderson,.....	Z. Williams,.....	.....	B. L. Loveless,.....	0	0	0	0	0	4	27	16	43	1	Fort Crawford.
.....	Eld. Z. G. Henderson, A. Hendrix, W. J. Milner,.....	Z. G. Henderson,.....	.....	.....	34	28	6	3	6	3	61	125	186	4	Pensacola.
.....	W. Sturdevant,.....	Z. G. Henderson,.....	.....	Wm. A. Jones,†.....	34	28	6	3	6	3	61	125	186	4	Pensacola.

NOTE.—Absentees marked \*

† Licentiate

# TABULAR STATEMENT.

CHURCHES.	NAMES OF DELEGATES.	SUPPLIES.	RESIDENT MINISTERS.	CLERKS.	POST OFFICES									
					Baptized.	Rec'd by Letter.	Dismissed.	Excluded.	Restored.	Dead.	Whites.	Colored.	Total.	Sabbath Meetings.
Yellow River.....	Eld. J. F. Cook, J. D. Clary, M. T. Senterfit,...	John F. Cook,...	John F. Cook,...	M. T. Senterfit,...	21	8	5	3	1	1	94	22	116	3 Almarante.
Antioch, changed from W. F. Creek	George W. Miller, Elisha Miller,...	...	Jesse Thames,...	Jacob Caulry,...	12	0	15	1	0	2	13	0	0	4 Milton.
Fair Mount,.....	Elder Jesse Thames, J. L. Steely,...	Jesse Thames,...	Jesse Thames,...	L. S. Harrill,...	17	9	2	0	2	0	57	5	62	3 Red Leul.
<i>Appendix, showing the Newly Constituted Churches, with their Statistics.</i>														
Brushy Creek,....	Elder R. Gentry, J. W. Brown,...	P. S. Milner,...	...	J. W. Brown,...	9	6	0	0	0	0	...	...	27	East Georgia.
New Providence,...	Rezin Smith, George Nelson,...	Jesse Flowers,...	...	John Simmons,...	9	5	0	0	0	0	...	...	14	East River.
Friendship,.....	Oliver Guffith, J. T. Henderson,...	J. L. Flowers,...	...	S. B. Guffith,...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13	Austenville.
Shiloh,.....	Robert Smith, Millard Brown, *	Missionary,...	...	B. Murphy,...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9	Fort Crawford.
Hopew'l, Concord,...	John Harr, Matthew Owens, *	Jacob Smith,...	...	John Hare,...	3	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	15	Belville.
Oaky Sreak,.....	Elder N. Parker, E. Nix,...	N. Parker,...	...	J. T. Parker,...	0	2	0	0	0	10	1	11	3	Oaky Sreak.
Macedonia,.....	Hezekiah Thomas,...	...	...	Hezekiah Thomas,...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	Lewis' Station.
Hopew'l, Cov'ton,...	Elder A. D. Stewart, Elder L. H. Oswalt,...	L. H. Oswalt,...	...	L. H. Oswalt, A. D. Stewart,...	27	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	35	4 Loango.
N. Prospect, Cov'ton	H. Tolbert, S. S. Coleman,...	J. F. Cook,...	...	S. S. Coleman,...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8	Williams' Mills.
Red Rock,.....	J. Savill, Thomas Nelson,...	Missionary,...	...	J. Savill,...	9	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	14	Milton.
Georgiana,.....	Williamson Archer, Henry Smith,...	P. S. Milner,...	P. S. Milner,...	P. S. Milner,...	20	6	...	...	...	...	51	8	33	2,4 Georgiana.

NOTE.—Absentees marked \*

† Licentiate